

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

21. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for conditioning the atmosphere in a vacuum chamber, said apparatus comprising:

a vacuum line including said vacuum chamber and comprising a pumping apparatus including at least a primary pump; and

isolation means comprising an isolation enclosure enclosing said primary pump enabling the disturbance caused by the pumping apparatus to the vacuum chamber to be reduced,

wherein said isolation enclosure is sealed.

22. (Previously Presented): Apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the pumping apparatus is disposed in the immediate vicinity of the vacuum chamber.

23. (Previously Presented): Apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the vacuum line comprises a primary pump and at least one upstream secondary pump; the primary pump is enclosed in an isolation enclosure.

24. (Previously Presented): Apparatus according to claim 23, wherein

the vacuum line further comprises gas treatment means adapted for treating the extracted gas downstream from the primary pump;

the gas treatment means are enclosed together with the primary pump in said isolation enclosure.

25. (Previously Presented): Apparatus according to claim 24, wherein

the vacuum line further comprises gas analyzer means adapted for analyzing the gases inside the vacuum line;

the gas analyzer means are enclosed together with the primary pump and the gas treatment means in said isolation enclosure.

26. (Previously Presented): Apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the isolation means includes temperature monitoring and regulation apparatus for monitoring and regulating the temperature of the contents of the isolation enclosure.

27. (Previously Presented): Apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the isolation means includes active vibration-compensating means for compensating the mechanical vibrations generated by the contents of the isolation enclosure.

28. (Previously Presented): Apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the isolation enclosure further encloses a controller, constituting signal processing means for generating a speed control signal for controlling the speed of the primary pump and/or the speed of the secondary pump as a function of signals received from gas analyzer means.

29 (Previously Presented): Apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the active vibration-compensating means comprises vibration sensors associated mechanically with the isolation enclosure and vibration generators controlled so as to produce vibrations in phase opposition with the vibrations produced by the contents of the isolation enclosure as sensed by the vibration sensors.

30. (New): An atmosphere conditioning apparatus, comprising:

a vacuum pump;

a motor for driving the vacuum pump; and

a sealed isolation enclosure surrounding the vacuum pump and the motor;

wherein the enclosure is designed to contain disturbances caused by the vacuum pump and motor combination.

31. (New): The atmosphere conditioning apparatus according the claim 30, further comprising:

a temperature monitoring device; and

a temperature regulating device receiving input from the temperature monitoring device,

wherein the temperature regulating device maintains a predetermined temperature within the sealed isolation enclosure.

32. (New): The atmosphere conditioning apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a vibration sensor; and

a vibration compensating device receiving input from said vibration sensor,

wherein the vibration compensating device creates vibrations to offset the vibrations induced by the vacuum pump and motor.